

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 4, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-229-Mt. Pisgah, Santiam-Alvey #1 & 2) **Project #: V-E-04/18**

to: Ben Tilley
Natural resource specialist – TFE/Alvey

Proposed Action: Perform vegetation management activities along the following transmission line corridors in the Mt. Pisgah area: Santiam-Alvey #1 & 2 from tower structure 58/4 to 60/5; Marion-Alvey #1 from 60/4 to 64/1; and Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & 2 from 12/3 to 14/2.

Location: The project is located in Lane County, Oregon in the BPA Eugene Region

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for project corridor in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses Buford County Park (Lane County Parks) and private grazing lands.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklists. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near streams. No herbicides will be used for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 26, 2004 identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area.

In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site specific information determined that no listed species or designated critical habitat were found to be present along the project corridor. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural or archaeological resource sites in the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped and the BPA Environmental Specialist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: No ground disturbance is anticipated. If seeding becomes necessary, seeding will be completed when there is sufficient moisture to allow for 2 months of growth.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Joseph Sharpe for
 Aaron Shurtliff
 Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
 Thomas C. McKinney
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10/05/04

Attachment:
 Vegetation Management Checklist

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
 T. McKinney – KEC-4
 J. Meyer – KEP-4
 B. Sherer – KEP-4
 J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
 P. Key – LC-7
 J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2

K. Rodd - TF/DOB-1
 J. Domschot – TFE/Alvey
 A. Sundberg – TFE/Alvey
 G. Burbach – TFEF/Alvey
 Environmental File – KEC-4
 Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

Vegetation Management Checklist

Project No. V-E-04/18

Buford County Park (Mt. Pisgah)

Prepared by:
Benjamin J. Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist
TFE/Alvey

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See Handbook — [List of Right-of-way Components](#) for checkboxes and the requirements for the components [Rights-of-way](#), [Access Roads](#), [Switch Platforms](#), [Danger Trees](#), and [Microwave Beam paths](#).

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Marion-Alvey #1	50 miles 500 kV	150'	4 miles (60\4 + 730' to 64\1)
Lookout Point-Alvey #1 & #2	16 mile 115 kV	150'	2.5 miles (12\3 to 14\2)
Santiam-Alvey #1 & #2	54 miles 230 kV	225-250'	2 miles (58\4 + 1100' to 60\5 + 1000')

Right Of Way:

Right-of-Way – clearing in right-of-way

Transmission Structures – clearing around

Danger Trees

Access Roads—approximate miles: 4 miles (12 acres)

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — [List of Vegetation Types](#), [Density](#), [Noxious Weeds](#) for checkboxes and requirements.

Vegetation Types:

Douglas Fir

True Fir

Hemlock

Alder

Cedar

Wild Cherry

Willow

Noxious Weeds: Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, false brome, thistle (various spp.)

Density: Low (50 stems or less/per acre)

1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why.

See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

Tall-growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the line will be removed. (In places where tall growing vegetation must be left in place, it may not be possible to promote low-growing plants.)

Vegetation that will grow tall will be selectively eliminated *before* it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing species.

Desirable low-growing plants will not be disturbed. Only selective vegetation control methods that have little potential to harm non-target vegetation will be used.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - [Overall Management Scheme/Schedule](#).

Initial entry – Initial entry will entail the activities described above (promoting LGPC).

Subsequent entries – The line will be cut in such a way that there should be no concerns of tall-growing species under the lines for the duration of the 2-year cycle. Noxious weeds may require control on up to an annual basis, depending on methods chosen for control.

Future cycles – Future entries will include initial entry activities every 2-3 years. There may be opportunities to extend the cutting cycles, depending on weather, growth rates, and outside support for noxious weed control.

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.

See Handbook — [Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for requirements, and [List of Landowners/Managers/Uses](#) for a checkbox list.

Landowners/Managers/Uses: Lane County Buford Park—Recreation area and grazing lands

Counties: Lane County, Oregon

2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., doorhanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.

See Handbook — [Methods for Notification and Requesting Information](#) for requirements.

Discussions have occurred with numerous staff from Lane County Parks. Numerous on-site field visits have occurred with managing and supporting groups.

2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.

See handbook — [Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses](#) for requirements and guidance, also [Residential/Commercial](#), [Agricultural](#), [Tribal Reservations](#), [FS-managed lands](#), [BLM –managed lands](#), [Other federal lands](#), [State/ Local Lands](#).

Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
Buford Park (Lane County Parks Dept.)	Recreational and agricultural activities. All work will be consistent with maintaining park objectives.

2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.

See handbook — [Landowner Agreements](#) for requirements.

Refer to table above.

2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure's to take due to the informal use.

See handbook — [Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way](#) for requirements.

Refer to table above.

2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.

See handbook — [Other Potentially Affected Publics](#) for requirements and suggestions.

Refer to table above.

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

See Handbook — [Natural Resources](#)

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.

See Handbook — [Water Resources](#) for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From							
58\4 + 310'	58\4 + 1750'	Middle Fork Willamette River	Yes	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Santiam-Alvey #1
59\1 + 485'	59\1 + 540'	Unnamed slough	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Santiam-Alvey #1
60\5 + 1100'	60\5 + 1270'	Coast Fork Willamette River	Yes	No work to be done	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Santiam-Alvey #1
12\2 + 120'		Unnamed creek	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Lookout Point-Alvey #1
12\3 + 25'	12\3 + 425'	Unnamed swamp	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Lookout Point-Alvey #1
12\8 + 434'	12\9 + 582'	Unnamed creeks (6)	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Lookout Point-Alvey #1
13\2	13\3	Unnamed washes (2)	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Lookout Point-Alvey #1
60\4 + 544'	60\4 + 730'	Middle Fork Willamette River	Yes	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From							
61\1 + 408'		Unnamed creek	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1
61\1 + 1495'	61\1 + 1674'	Unnamed beaver pond	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1
62\5	63\1	Unnamed dry washes (2)	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1
63\4 + 820'		Unnamed dry wash	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1
63\5 + 140'		Unnamed dry wash	No	Hand-cut tall-growing species	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1
64\1 + 160'	64\1 + 250'	Coast Fork Willamette River	Yes	No work to be done	No Herbicides	N/A	N/A	Marion-Alvey #1

3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).

See Handbook — [Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs](#) for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

Span		Well/irrigation/or spring	Herbicide	Buffer	Other notes/measures
To	From				
62\4 + 546'		Unnamed spring	No herbicides	164' (for herbicides)	Marion-Alvey #1

3.3 List below the areas that have threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.

See Handbook — [T&E Plant or Animal Species](#) for requirements and determining presence.

Span		T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
To	From		
61\2	61\3	Bald Eagle Nest	Southwest of ROW <. 25 miles. Work in local area will be delayed until after breeding season ends (Aug 31). No large trees will be removed in the area. Noxious weed control on roads and around tower sites. Manual control of tall-growing species on-ROW. No herbicides will be used in this area.

3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.

See Handbook — [Protecting Other Species](#) for requirements.

None at this time.

3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.

See Handbook — [Visual Sensitive Areas](#) for requirements.

Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
Buford County Park Recreation Area	All debris will be mulched (machine) or cut, chipped, and removed off-site. Trails and other walkways will not be disturbed. No debris will be left across travel ways.

3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.

See Handbook – [Cultural Resources](#) for requirements.

No known cultural resources present. No ground-disturbing activity will occur. If evidence is found of cultural resources (artifacts, features, burial sites), work will cease immediately and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.

See Handbook – [Steep/Unstable Slopes](#) for requirements.

Removal of vegetation on steep slopes restricted to tall-growing species that are a hazard to the transmission line.

3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.

See Handbook – [Spanned Canyons](#) for requirements.

Removal of vegetation in spanned canyons restricted to tall-growing species that are a hazard to the transmission line.

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

See Handbook — [Methods](#)

4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.

See Handbook — [Manual](#), [Mechanical](#), [Biological](#), and [Herbicides](#) for requirements for each of the methods.

Select Cut= cut, lop and scatter to extent necessary to prevent fire hazard.

Low Cut= Remove all vegetation at ground level, CLS to prevent fire.

Chip Acres= select cut and chip all debris generated. Remove off-site in residential areas.

Access Road Acres= select/low cut method on access roads

Side-limb=remove limbs/tops of large trees. Shape trees for satisfactory appearance.

Tower Sites=low cut method 30-50' radius around tower site

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.

See Handbook — [Debris disposal](#) for a checkbox list and requirements.

Cut, lop and scatter to the extent to prevent increased fire hazard.

Chipping will be done where visually sensitive areas exist as well as per landowner request.

5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).

See Handbook — [Reseeding/replanting](#) for requirements.

Native, naturalized, and non-native grasses are present on the entire ROW that will naturally reseed into the areas that have been lightly disturbed by vegetation management activities. Support from agencies and groups related to the park may contribute resources.

5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.

N/A

5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.

N/A

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

See handbook — [Monitoring](#) for requirements.

6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.

Monitor brush control as it is happening on a daily basis. Monitoring will also occur every few months as the situation lends itself. Working patrol will determine when subsequent entry for access road and tower site clearing will be needed (performed in the winter). Helicopter patrol will help determine when tall-growing species need attention. Ground patrols by the NRS will occur every few months.

6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.

Survey vegetation growth of native and weed species in sensitive areas. Monitor for erosion potential during every inspection. Monitor growth rate and return of species along tower sites and access roads to predict accessibility in the foreseeable future.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

See handbook — [Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation](#) for requirements. . Also prepare Supplement Analysis — [Supplement Analysis](#) — for signature.

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.

None, project is consistent with EIS.

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

None needed.